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ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[12 November 1992]

1. The Government of the Argentine Republic wishes to note that the climate of harmony and cooperation among the countries of the southern cone of South America has led to the consolidation of a framework of peace and stability in the region.

2. Within this framework, advances in Argentine-Brazilian relations in the field of nuclear policy are particularly noteworthy. On 18 July 1991 at Guadelajara, Mexico, both countries signed the Agreement on the Exclusively Peaceful Utilization of Nuclear Energy, by which they undertook not to produce or to acquire nuclear weapons by any means. In addition, the Common System of Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (SCCC) was established, the essential purpose of which is to ensure that nuclear materials are not used for making nuclear explosive devices. The System is implemented by the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC), established for that purpose.

3. On 13 December 1991 at Vienna, the Presidents of Argentina and Brazil signed an agreement on comprehensive safeguards with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Brazilian-Argentine Agency (ABACC).

4. With this Agreement, Brazil and Argentina offer the international community a guarantee of the exclusively peaceful nature of their respective nuclear programmes. This quadripartite agreement is considered by IAEA to be a model instrument on the field that should be followed by other countries. The Argentine Congress has already approved both agreements.

5. Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Mexico submitted a set of amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco 1/ which were adopted by the fourth meeting of signatories to the Treaty and the seventh special session of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL). Upon completion of the requisite constitutional procedures, Argentina, Brazil and Chile will be able to accede fully to the Treaty, thereby giving concrete expression to their principal aim: the elimination of nuclear weapons from Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. On 5 September 1991, Argentina, Brazil and Chile signed the declaration known as the Mendoza Accord, by which they undertook not to develop, stockpile or use chemical or biological weapons. 2/ Ecuador, Uruguay, Bolivia and Paraguay subsequently became signatories to the Accord, an instrument which may be seen as a major contribution to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

7. In the context of paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 45/36, it should be noted that the situation described in paragraph 3 of the Argentine Government's reply to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session with regard to the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic continues to exist. 3/ Solving this important problem would bring about the definitive consolidation of stability and cooperation in the South Atlantic. At the same time, it is important to note that Argentina and the United Kingdom have developed stronger political, economic and commercial ties. It is the firm intention of the Argentine Government to continue to develop and strengthen these ties.

8. While relations between the Latin American countries and the South Atlantic African countries have not flourished to the extent desired, Argentina hopes to develop them further in the near future. Positive developments in the situation in various countries, such as the ending of apartheid and the peaceful settlement of the crises in Liberia and Angola, would contribute positively in that regard.

9. It is in this spirit that Argentina has allocated substantial funds to project ARG/92/004, on support for technical cooperation activities between developing countries, and intends to focus special attention on the South Atlantic African countries with a view to launching programmes of technical assistance, joint research and/or training; implementing bilateral agreements on financial, technical, scientific and commercial cooperation; and seeking more suitable ways of facilitating exchanges between similar public and/or private institutions on both continents.

10. The Argentine Republic is following the developments in Angola with particular interest and is an active participant in the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM I and II), since Argentina attaches great importance to the establishment of democracy in that country. Similarly, it trusts that all the parties to the South African conflict will continue to demonstrate maturity and political will with a view to finding new and just institutional arrangements that will lead to the integration of southern Africa and the consolidation of the zone of peace and cooperation in the region.

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 634, No. 9068, p. 326, Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America.

2/ Joint Declaration on the Complete Prohibition of Chemical and Biological Weapons - Mendoza Accord (A/46/463, annex).

3/ A/46/410.